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**FRESNO BUSINESS OWNER SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS FOR  
INTERSTATE DRUG TRAFFICKING**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that OSCAR ROSALES, 41, the owner of Exclusive Sounds, a stereo and Direct TV business located at 4376 W. Shaw Avenue in Fresno, was sentenced to 14 years in federal prison and five years of supervised release following his guilty plea to a large-scale conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute at least 1,000 kilograms, or 2,200 pounds, of marijuana. In pleading guilty, ROSALES admitted that he was the leader of a drug trafficking organization dedicated to the interstate distribution of marijuana.

The investigation was conducted by the Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force (FMTF), a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Initiative (HIDTA), which is comprised of law enforcement agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Fresno Police Department, Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Madera County Sheriff's Department, California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), and California Highway Patrol (CHP). The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Karen A. Escobar, who is assigned to Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) prosecutions.

The FMTF investigation led to the seizure of approximately 5,330 pounds of marijuana having a value of approximately \$12,128,000, \$2,410,782 worth of real properties and cash, and 29 firearms. Of the 44 members of the ROSALES drug trafficking organization prosecuted in federal court, 40 have entered guilty pleas thus far.

After receiving extensive testimony and evidence at ROSALES' sentencing hearing, Senior United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger found that ROSALES was a drug kingpin who used his business acumen to conduct a sophisticated interstate and international marijuana trafficking enterprise. The court made this finding after concluding that ROSALES was the leader of a long-standing drug enterprise based in Fresno which distributed millions of dollars of marijuana to numerous locations outside of California, including Arkansas, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Georgia.

According to court documents, information obtained by drug agents through surveillance

and numerous wiretap intercepts of one of ROSALES' cellular telephones during a two-month federal wiretap investigation commencing in February 2005, not only confirmed the extensive nature of the ROSALES' drug trafficking organization but indicated that ROSALES received, stored, and distributed marijuana from his stereo business. In addition, narcotics agents witnessed several marijuana transactions directed by ROSALES from January to April 2005, which involved multiple co-conspirators. Agents seized approximately 247 pounds of marijuana which ROSALES distributed to local and interstate destinations, including Atlanta, Georgia, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. The investigation, dubbed Operation Green Speaker, initially targeted ROSALES and his distribution network. Concerted efforts and follow-up by law enforcement ultimately led to the identification and prosecution of ROSALES' domestic sources of marijuana supply in Mendocino County and North Fork in Madera County, California, who were operating under the guise of medicinal marijuana production.

“This case demonstrates our commitment to identify and dismantle significant drug trafficking organizations, particularly those which operate within our own communities by employing the facade of a legitimate business,” said United States Attorney Scott. This commitment was recognized by the Office of National Drug Control Policy in January, 2006, which honored the Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California for its investigation of the ROSALES drug trafficking organization.

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